

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

and

SIERRA CLUB,

Intervenor-Plaintiff,

v.

DTE ENERGY COMPANY AND
DETROIT EDISON COMPANY,

Defendants.

Civil Action No.
2:10-cv-13101-BAF-RSW

Judge Bernard A. Friedman

Magistrate Judge R. Steven
Whalen

**JOINT MOTION AND BRIEF FOR FURTHER STAY PENDING
SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS,
AND STATUS REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS**

Pursuant to Local Rule 7.1(a), the Parties jointly move for an approximately two-month stay of this case while they continue to engage in settlement negotiations seeking to resolve this case in its entirety. All Parties—Plaintiff United States of America (“United States”), Defendants DTE Energy Company and Detroit Edison Company (collectively, “DTE”), and Plaintiff-Intervenor Sierra Club—join in this motion.

This joint filing also serves as the Parties’ status report on negotiations, as required by the Court’s order granting the current stay. [ECF No. 250].

In further support of this motion, the Parties state the following:

1. This litigation began in 2010 when the United States filed its complaint and motion for preliminary injunction. On November 23, 2010, Sierra Club's motion to intervene as a plaintiff in this proceeding was granted. The litigation has been to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit twice. The Court granted summary judgment for a second time to DTE on the claim in the original complaint on March 3, 2014 [ECF No. 196], and Plaintiffs again appealed to the Sixth Circuit [ECF Nos. 221, 222]. By judgment dated January 10, 2017, the Sixth Circuit reversed and remanded in a 2-1 decision with three separate opinions. [Case nos. 14-2274, 14-2275, Doc. 40-2]. DTE timely filed a petition for certiorari to the United States Supreme Court, which was denied by order dated December 11, 2017. [*See* ECF No. 235]. The Sixth Circuit's mandate was issued on December 14, 2017, and was received by the clerk of this Court on the same day. [ECF No. 236].

2. On December 13, 2018, the Court granted the Parties' joint motion to continue the stay of the litigation to pursue settlement negotiations for an additional six months through May 14, 2019. [ECF No. 244]. The Court thereafter granted the Parties' subsequent joint motions to extend the stay for additional time through August 23, 2019. [ECF No. 246, 248, 250]. Since that time, the Parties have made significant progress in settlement discussions. The

Parties have reached agreement in principle on major substantive terms, and they are continuing to work together to reach a final agreement. The Parties are hopeful that a two-month extension of the current stay will allow them resolve the remaining items and finalize a consent decree for approval.

3. The Parties believe that the continuing expense and uncertainty of this expansive litigation favors exploring whether a resolution by agreement can be reached before the parties re-engage in full-blown discovery and trial preparation on multiple, complex claims. Both judicial efficiency and conservation of the Parties' resources favor a further stay while they pursue these settlement negotiations.

4. Therefore, the Parties respectfully request that the Court extend the stay of this litigation through October 25, 2019. The Parties propose that at that time they would provide the Court a status report on negotiations and a recommendation for next steps.

BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF MOTION

For their Brief in Support of their Joint Motion for Stay Pending Settlement Negotiations, the Parties rely upon the reasons and authority set forth in the Motion.

Respectfully submitted, this the 23rd day of August 2019.

Bruce S. Gelber
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Environment & Natural Resources Div.

/s/ Thomas A. Benson

Thomas A. Benson
thomas.benson@usdoj.gov
Kristin M. Furrie
kristin.furrie@usdoj.gov
U.S. Department of Justice
Environment & Natural Resource Div.
Ben Franklin Station
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044
202-514-5261

Peter Caplan
U.S. Attorney's Office
211 W. Fort Street
Suite 2001
Detroit, MI 48226
Counsel for Plaintiff United States

/s/ Shannon Fisk

Shannon Fisk
Managing Attorney, Coal
Program
Earthjustice
1617 John F. Kennedy Blvd.,
Suite 1130
Philadelphia, PA 19103
T: 215-717-4522
C: 215-327-9922
earthjustice.org
*Counsel for Plaintiff-Intervenor
Sierra Club*

/s/ Harry M. Johnson, III

F. William Brownell
brownell@hunton.com
Harry M. Johnson, III
pjohnson@hunton.com
Makram B. Jaber
mjaber@hunton.com
Hunton & Williams LLP
1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-1109
(202) 955-1500

Brent A. Rosser
Hunton & Williams LLP
101 South Tryon Street
Suite 3500
Charlotte, North Carolina 28211
brosser@hunton.com
(704) 378-4707

Matthew J. Lund (P48632)
Pepper Hamilton LLP
4000 Town Center, Suite 1800
Southfield, Michigan 48075
lundm@pepperlaw.com
(248) 359-7370

Michael J. Solo (P57092)
Andrea E. Hayden
DTE Energy
One Energy Plaza
Detroit, Michigan
solom@dteenergy.com
haydena@dteenergy.com
(313) 235-9512
Counsel for Defendants